

The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

19 December 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR:

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FROM: Harold P. Ford, NIO at Large
National Intelligence Council

SUBJECT: Dissents in National Estimates

1. Dissenting views in national estimates are drafted by the sponsoring NFIB agency, coordinated with the appropriate National Intelligence Officer (that is, the chairman of the particular NIE), and debated by Principals of the National Foreign Intelligence Board before final approval for inclusion in an estimate. Alternative views are not limited in length. They must, however, be confined to issues of some substance within the scope of the estimate, parallel the text in substance and degree of detail, and clearly convey the rationale supporting the dissent.

2. The language of dissenting views may be lightly edited by the National Intelligence Officer, acting for the Director of Central Intelligence, in order to insure that the view parallels the text in format, coverage, and presentation; and to establish that the dissent does not attribute positions to the estimate which it does not in fact include. National estimates do not contain counter-dissents.

Har P. Ford

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